UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

For participants only

E/1991/SR.7
4 June 1991
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: SPANISH

First regular session of 1991

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 22 May 1991, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. DJOUDI (Algeria)

CONTENTS

Tribute to the memory of Mr. Rajiv Ghandi, former Prime Minister of India

Non-governmental organizations

Statistical and cartographic questions

(b) Cartography

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

91-55754 3681S (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF MR. RAJIV GANDHI, FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

The PRESIDENT said that, before the Economic and Social Council began its consideration of the various items on the agenda, it was his sad duty to refer to the assassination of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India, a tragic event which was mourned by the victim's relatives, his country and the entire world; a criminal act had robbed India of one of its great leaders, while depriving the community of nations of an esteemed and respected statesman.

He was convinced that both the family of the deceased and the vast family of India itself would be able to carry on the tradition which had been established, to surmount their current harsh ordeal and to respond satisfactorily to the challenges with which they were confronted. While the perpetrators of that heinous act had succeeded in assassinating Rajiv Gandhi, they had not been able to kill the dream which he had embodied, that of building a modern India, an India of the twenty-first century. That dream would live on in the distinguished representatives of that great nation.

On behalf of all those in attendance, he expressed his deepest condolences to the delegation of India for the cruel loss of Rajiv Gandhi and of many other innocent victims. He requested the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations to convey to the family of the deceased, the families of the other victims and the Government of India, the profound sympathy of all the delegations on whose behalf he spoke.

On the proposal of the Chairman, the members of the Council observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India.

Mr. MENON (Observer for India) thanked the President and the delegations in attendance for their condolences at Mr. Gandhi's death. His delegation would convey those condolences to the Government of India.

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (E/1991/20 and Add.1)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to begin its consideration of agenda item 3, entitled "Non-governmental organizations". He drew the Council's attention to the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1991/20 and Add.1) and, in particular, to section I of the report, dealing with matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention.

Mr. SOTO GARCIA (Observer for Cuba) said that the number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) had grown and that such organizations were playing an increasingly broad role in the contemporary world. Non-governmental organizations had made significant efforts in relation to various social and economic issues, such as disarmament, hunger, protection of the environment, education, care of children and the elderly, discrimination and apartheid. Because of their work, NGOs had earned prestige, which they fully deserved; however, much remained to be done, and errors needed to be rectified.

The majority of the world's population now lived in developing countries, which appeared to have been condemned in perpetuity to suffer the oppression of debt, hunger, ignorance, insecurity, lack of medical care, increasing backwardness, social injustice and economic inequality. At the other extreme, despite the atmosphere of détente, existing arsenals of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons were still sufficient to annihilate all life on the planet, and the planet itself, several times over. Such problems were at the root of many others which, although not insignificant, received much more attention from non-governmental organizations.

One way of helping to solve those problems was to promote and recognize the non-governmental organizations of developing countries. More than 90 per cent of the NGOs with consultative status had their headquarters, origin and members in the Western developed countries. The remaining less than 10 per cent belonged to Latin America, Asia, Africa and Oceania.

The discussions at the most recent session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had once again underscored the validity and practical usefulness of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) and

(Mr. Soto Garcia, Observer, Cuba)

of the methods of work of the Committee established pursuant to that resolution. His delegation agreed with the other members of the Committee that it was necessary to defend and preserve that resolution and the methods of work stipulated therein; during the years in which those methods had been in effect, they had proved fair, objective and democratic.

Unfortunately, some problems and difficulties had arisen during the discussions in the Committee, mainly because of the delay with which the Secretariat had submitted the documentation. In accordance with resolution 1296 (XLIV), delegations should receive documentation six weeks in advance from non-governmental organizations which were requesting consultative status or submitting their quadrennial reports. On the occasion of which he spoke, the abundant documentation had become available only one week before the session began. Delegations had also received a report on the Committee's work, which was to be submitted to the Council and which was currently being considered, barely two weeks ago. Those delays, in addition to violating resolution 1296 (XLIV), complicated, disrupted and hindered the work of the delegations on the Committee, and prevented documents from being properly analysed and the necessary consultations from being held. That situation must be remedied.

Mr. FEYDER (Observer for Luxembourg), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that the measures taken recently in many countries throughout the world to promote democracy and respect for fundamental freedoms had provided non-governmental organizations with new opportunities to grow and to promote their objectives. Non-governmental organizations were in fact contributing to the process of political and social change in those countries and, in some cases, were carrying out the same activities which they had previously undertaken in much more difficult circumstances. Those developments demonstrated that free societies benefited from the existence of groups and organizations which acted independently of governmental authorities.

The Community and its member States noted with satisfaction that cooperation between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations had grown steadily over the years, and welcomed the efforts made by various

(Mr. Feyder, Observer, Luxembourg)

Secretariat units to improve the flow of information between such those organizations and the United Nations and to strengthen cooperation and coordination.

He welcomed the fact that the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs, in his statement to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, had recognized that those organizations, because of their experience and knowledge, could make a significant contribution to the formulation and execution of United Nations projects and programmes. Broader cooperation between the Secretariat and NGOs in organizing joint activities, such as seminars, conferences and technical and operational activities, could enhance the efficiency and the impact of such activities and, in some cases, reduce costs for the United Nations.

The report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations was evidence of the vitality and relevance of non-governmental organizations. The Committee was recommending that the Council grant consultative status to 36 additional organizations in the three existing categories. He welcomed the inclusion of organizations whose applications had already been submitted at previous sessions. Since the Committee had decided to apply the rule of consensus, each of its members had to make a responsible and impartial judgement with regard to all the applications. It should be noted that the situation had improved considerably in that regard at the two previous sessions of the Committee, which had been characterized by closer cooperation. At the most recent session of the Committee, factors unrelated to resolution 1296 (XLIV) had affected the consideration of applications, especially with regard to non-governmental organizations in the human rights field. The applications of organizations requesting consultative status and the quadrennial reports should be examined on the basis of the criteria laid down by the Council, without the intervention of political factors.

The Twelve believed that non-governmental organizations should not only have major participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs but could also play an important role in activities such as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in 1992, and in other international conferences and meetings.

(Mr. Feyder, Observer, Luxembourg)

The European Community and its member States fully supported the Committee's recommendation that the Council should examine the grave situation in respect of staff resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit of the Secretariat and requested the Secretary-General to consider at the next session of the General Assembly, in the context of preparing the budget for the next biennium, the possibility of urgently reviewing the staffing of that Unit.

Mr. TROTTIER (Canada) said that the large number of applications for consultative status attested to the growing desire of non-governmental organizations to participate directly in the activities of the United Nations system. That was a positive trend, since non-governmental organizations were an integral part of the United Nations process. In Canada, there had been a significant increase in NGO activities in the human rights field, reflecting growing public interest in international human rights issues. For the past few years, the Government of Canada had held consultations with non-governmental organizations prior to the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights. Representatives of some 150 Canadian NGOs and Canadian branches of international NGOs were invited to attend those consultations. In addition, Canada's Department of External Affairs maintained ongoing contacts with non-governmental organizations throughout the year.

The University of Ottawa had concluded an agreement with Internet, an international network of NGOs in the field of human rights, under which Internet was currently housed at the University's Human Rights Centre and served as an important information resource on human rights issues.

Canada looked forward to continuing efforts by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and the Secretariat's Non-Governmental Organizations Unit to facilitate the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the United Nations. It welcomed the efforts to improve coordination, cooperation and the exchange of information among the various offices dealing with NGO matters, as well as initiatives aimed at strengthening cooperation between the Secretariat and non-governmental organizations.

Ms. ROBERTS (Jamaica) said that her delegation extended its sincere condolences to the Government and people of India for the tragic death of Rajiv Gandhi.

Jamaica was committed to working closely with non-governmental organizations, which made an important contribution to the work of the United Nations. Her delegation strongly supported the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, contained in its report (E/1991/20), to grant consultative status under Category I to Inter Press Service International Cooperative (IPS), which made a significant contribution in the Caribbean region to the reporting of world news. Jamaica felt that the establishment of closer links between the United Nations and IPS would strengthen the latter's contribution to the work of the Organization.

Ms. FRAPER (France) commended the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit for working with dedication and efficiency despite its staff shortage. Both the number and the activities of non-governmental organizations were increasing steadily and efforts to assist the Unit were therefore indispensable.

Recently, the Committee had expressed concern at the fact that some organizations had lost contact with the United Nations or were not very active. In that regard, it must be stressed that organizations in consultative status must take that status very seriously. Not only was it a sign of prestige but it also carried with it the obligation to promote the goals of the United Nations. At its 1991 session, although the Committee had approved almost all of the applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations, it had found it necessary to defer some applications for lack of sufficient or satisfactory information under the terms of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). In most cases, universally acceptable solutions had been found; however, it was regrettable that questions had been raised about the submissions of some non-governmental organizations that were doing important and productive work for human rights. Since human rights were a fundamental aspect of its work, the United Nations should encourage all organizations that were prepared to promote the dissemination and implementation of international standards in that field.

(Ms. Fraper, France)

Recent history had shown that a vital role was played by non-governmental organizations, especially those which provided humanitarian relief to the victims of disasters and emergency situations, those which participated in development assistance and those which defended human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly in countries which had turned towards democracy.

With respect to the methods of work of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, she noted that at its 1991 session the Committee had decided to work on the drafting of administrative and technical guidelines designed to facilitate its work and that of the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit; some of the results of thos efforts appeared in paragraphs 46 to 48 of document E/1991/20. Her delegation fully supported those guidelines, which should be refined and supplemented without delay, and offered its assistance in that process. She hoped that the Committee would continue its practice of adopting decisions by consensus, while taking care to reflect a position acceptable to all. In that regard, it would be appropriate to conduct a study of decisions on similar cases from previous years and to use objective criteria in considering the merits of applicant organizations.

Mr. HAGMAJER (Secretary-General of the World Federation of United Nations Associations), speaking in his capacity as President of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (CONGO), said that when Article 71 of the United Nations Charter, which authorized consultations with non-governmental organizations, had been drafted in 1945, the development of the NGO phenomenon could not have been anticipated. The modern definition of the State had to take into account the existence of citizens' organizations, and the international community had to recognize them as well. Greater attention should be given to non-governmental forces, which were increasingly willing to take responsibility for solving problems to which official administrations alone could not respond; the same was true at the international level. The act of applying for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council demonstrated a desire and a willingness to contribute to the decision-making and implementation processes for programmes adopted by the United Nations,

(Mr. Hagmajer)

particularly those concerning environment and development, human rights, the status of women and other United Nations activities.

Non-governmental organizations demanded not just formal acceptance of their role but the real recognition of their potential for cooperation, as partners and not just instruments. Under no circumstances should their activities be considered "anti-governmental": they understood the prerogatives of Member States and that their role was to make a creative contribution to achieving the goals pursued by the United Nations.

The latest session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had been marked by a constructive approach and a spirit of cooperation, as evidenced in its report. He pointed to the importance of paragraphs 37 to 49 of the report, on which he wished to make some observations on behalf of CONGO. Firstly, the practices and rules established under resolution 1296 (XLIV) with respect to the contribution of non-governmental organizations to the subsidiary organs of the Economic and Social Council should be maintained; secondly, the established rules for the participation of non-governmental organizations in world conferences must continue to apply; lastly, he wished to complain about the inadequacy of the resources allocated to providing substantive and logistical services to non-governmental organizations. The Non-Governmental Organizations Unit at United Nations Headquarters, though it provided invaluable services to the NGO community, was continually understaffed, and the same could be said of the offices at Geneva and Vienna. Given the importance of the role that non-governmental organizations were expected to play, he could not understand why the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit was not placed directly under the authority of the Secretary-General.

Finally, with respect to structural problems, he proposed that special officers in charge of contacts with non-governmental organizations should be assigned to missions accredited to the United Nations, and that special units should be established in Ministries of Foreign Affairs to serve as focal points for countries' policy-making process and to ensure institutional consistency in dealing with non-governmental organizations.

Ms. von ROEMER (International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)) said that she strongly supported the statement of the President of CONGO, and added that the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations devoted a great deal of time and effort to assigning organizations applying for consultative status to the appropriate category. Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) stipulated the conditions for assignment to category I, the most coveted, but in recent years it had happened that, whenever participation in conferences and special sessions was involved, each preparatory committee sought to establish its own modalities of participation by non-governmental organizations, ignoring the decisions of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. Preference tended to be given to smaller organizations with a single field of competence over large and representative organizations. Although the desire to involve non-governmental organizations with technical expertise, even if they did not have consultative status, was understandable, she pointed out, as the representative of a category I organization, that the latter were by definition international, had a wide field of competence and should not be expected to fit into neat categories. ICFTU, as an example, was not a women's organization or a youth organization, but it was very active in the advancement of women, and youth activities were an important part of its work. Yet recently, when it had announced its intention to attend the meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, ICFTU had been asked to demonstrate the relevance of its activities to the Conference. That was a good example of the duplication of work that resulted from a disregard of existing consultative arrangements. Such situations should be avoided in the future.

Another disturbing tendency was the division of non-governmental organizations into "Northern" and "Southern" organizations, simply on the basis of the location of their headquarters. International non-governmental organizations had headquarters in developed countries for the same reasons as international intergovernmental ones, but that did not make them any less international.

ICFTU had noted the decisions relating to the restructuring of the Economic and Social Council contained in a resolution recently adopted by the

(Ms. von Roemer)

General Assembly, and it looked forward to participating in the work of the revitalized Council, especially in the consideration of various major items on economic and social policy. Lastly, she paid tribute to the Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit for the superb work she had been doing with the meagre resources at her disposal.

Mr. STIBRAVY (International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)) said that his organization had noted with satisfaction the comment in paragraph 40 of document E/1991/20 about the increasing importance of the role and contributions of the non-governmental organizations in consultative status to the activities of the United Nations and the fact that they should utilize to the fullest extent the possibilities offered by their consultative status for participation in the Council and its subsidiary bodies. The International Chamber of Commerce had, since its admission in 1946 to category I consultative status with the Council, valued and made use of the opportunities for contributing to the work of the United Nations in the economic field and, to a lesser degree, the social field and it intended to continue doing so in the future.

ICC had followed with great interest the discussions on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, and it looked forward to continued and active exercise in that new context of the rights and privileges set out in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). In particular, it hoped to make useful contributions to the Council's consideration of major policy themes of interest to the international business community, and to the Council's discussions of important developments in the world economy. ICC was prepared to be represented at appropriately high levels and to convey to the Council the business community's views. In conclusion, he joined others in paying tribute to the excellent work of the Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs.

Ms. SUNDBOM (Sweden), speaking as Chairman of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, introduced the report of the Committee (E/1991/20). It had held its session from 21 January to 1 February 1991. In addition to the 19 States that were members of the Committee, many States had

(Ms. Sundbom, Sweden)

attended as observers and participated actively in the discussions. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status had also attended. The session had gone smoothly and, despite the enormous workload, the Committee had been able to complete its work on time. The discussions had taken place in an atmosphere of flexibility and understanding and there had been excellent cooperation between the member States, the non-governmental organizations in consultative status and the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs. The Committee had devoted most of its time to the consideration of applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification from non-governmental organizations. In addition, there had been a very useful discussion in connection with the review of future activities. As a result of its deliberations, the Committee had made a number of recommendations.

In draft decision II, the Committee had approved the provisional agenda for its next session in 1993.

The Committee had also taken note of most of the quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status, categories I and II, and had decided in draft decision III to withdraw the consultative status of three non-governmental organizations that had failed to submit the required reports. That decision showed the importance that member States attached to the activities of non-governmental organizations in consultative status, and the need for such organizations to report in a clear and timely manner.

As indicated in paragraphs 37 to 49 of the report, the Committee had strongly recommended an urgent review of the grave situation in respect of staff resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit, which serviced over 900 non-governmental organizations and was responsible for preparing the documentation considered by the Committee. The 1991 documentation had amounted to almost 2,000 pages, while the staff resources of the Unit were the same as in the 1950s, when there were less than 100 non-governmental organizations in consultative status. In view of that situation and in order to facilitate the work of the Unit, the Committee had adopted two practical decisions set out in paragraphs 46 and 48 of the report. Although the Committee had reiterated its conviction that Council resolution 1296 (XLIV)

(Ms. Sundbom, Sweden)

should continue to be the mandate for its work, it had felt that there was a need to discuss ways of facilitating its work. Accordingly, it had decided to establish a Working Group open to all members of the Committee to prepare draft guidelines of a technical nature aimed at assisting the Committee (para. 49).

Regarding the late issuance of Committee documentation, almost 2,000 pages of documentation had been involved and most of it had been issued before the session. The explanations given by the Secretariat indicated that the delay was due to the large volume of documentation that had had to be prepared for other bodies such as the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights. In order to avoid that drawback, the Council might wish to consider the possibility of having the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations meet later in the year but before the session of the Economic and Social Council.

The annual consultations between the Committee and the non-governmental organizations in consultative status had proved very useful for exchanging ideas and reviewing subjects of common interest.

As stipulated in draft decision I, the Committee had recommended that one organization should be granted category I consultative status; that 25 organizations should be granted category II consultative status; that 10 organizations should be placed on the Roster; and the four organizations should be reclassified from category II to category I and five organizations from the Roster to category II.

As indicated in paragraphs 5, 8, 9 and 12 of the report, the Committee had decided to defer the consideration of only three applications for consultative status and one request for reclassification to its session in 1993.

Regarding the recommendation to place various organizations on the Roster, the Bureau of the Committee had received, after its January session, new information on one of those organizations, namely, Human Life International. She suggested that the Committee should have an opportunity to review the new information at its 1993 session in the light of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). Accordingly, that organization's application for

(Ms. Sundbom, Sweden)

consultative status would be referred back to the Committee for review at its next session.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to consider the draft decisions contained in paragraph 1 of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/1991/20) and to act on them.

Regarding draft decision I on applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations, he asked whether, in view of the fact that the Bureau of the Committee had received additional information on Human Life International after the conclusion of its 1991 session, the Council agreed that the organization's application should be referred again to the Committee for a recommendation at its next session.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT asked the Council if it wished to adopt draft decision I, as orally revised.

Draft decision I, as orally revised, was adopted.

The PRESIDENT asked the Council if it wished to approve the provisional agenda and documentation for the session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to be held in 1993, as set out in draft decision II.

Draft decision II was adopted.

The PRESIDENT asked the Council if it wished to adopt draft decision III on the review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, categories I and II.

Draft decision III was adopted.

The PRESIDENT drew the Council's attention to the recommendations and decisions regarding the future activities of the Committee referred to in paragraph 2 of the Committee's report and set out in particular in paragraphs 44 to 49, and asked if the Council wished to take note of the Committee's comments on its methods of work.

It was so decided.

STATISTICAL AND CARTOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

(b) CARTOGRAPHY (E/1991/51 and Corr.1)

Mr. EL ARABY (Department of Technical Cooperation for Development) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (E/1991/51 and Corr.1). In resolution 1987/136, the Council had endorsed the recommendation to convene the Twelfth Conference in 1991 and had requested the Secretary-General to take measures to implement the other recommendations made by the Eleventh Conference. Accordingly, the Twelfth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific, convened by the United Nations Department of Technical Cooperation for Development in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, had met in Bangkok, Thailand, from 20 to 28 February 1991. The Conference had been attended by 186 representatives and observers from 40 countries and territories, eight specialized agencies and four intergovernmental and international scientific organizations.

In addition to the technical presentations and deliberations on the agenda items, 33 resolutions had been adopted, reflecting not only the needs in the developing countries but also the fact that the cartographic conferences were vital instruments for initiating technical cooperation and development and transferring technology to the developing countries.

Some resolutions dealt with technical issues and others with training and education. One resolution had requested the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development to investigate and develop a set of guidelines relating to the appropriate transfer of technology in the surveying, charting and mapping fields.

Furthermore, it had been considered necessary to develop a new agenda for the next conference in the light of the new needs in the region. Accordingly, taking account also of the impact of the new technology and its relationship to policy, economy and development in the surveying, charting and mapping fields, the plenary Conference had recommended the adoption of a provisional agenda for the Thirteenth Conference. In addition to the items listed in paragraph 8 of the report, the provisional agenda would include items dealing with the organization of the Conference and with country reports.

(Mr. El Araby)

The Conference had recognized in its resolutions the increasingly rapid developments in technology in the fields of surveying, charting and mapping, and it had recommended that the cartographic conferences should be held at three-year intervals instead of four-year intervals and therefore that the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific should be held in early 1994. It had also recommended that a technical meeting should be held prior to the Thirteenth Conference, which New Zealand had offered to host.

For its part, the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development had carried out all the regular programme activities in cartography assigned to it, in implementation of the resolutions adopted at previous regional cartographic conferences and at conferences on the standardization of geographical names, all of which had later been endorsed by the Council. It should be noted that operational projects in cartography and remote sensing were being financed primarily from extrabudgetary resources.

Technical cooperation projects in cartography were for the most part aimed at the institutional strengthening of national mapping and charting organizations. In all projects, the strategy applied was the general development strategy of the United Nations Development Programme, which gave special importance to increasing the self-reliance of the recipient governmental organizations. In that connection, it had been recognized that both formal and on-the-job training of national personnel at both managerial and operational levels was the most important factor, to which all other activities were generally subordinate.

The Department of Technical Cooperation for Development was also concentrating its efforts on a number of technical assistance activities in the fields of surveying, mapping, hydrographic charting and remote sensing. As of April 1991, technical cooperation projects in surveying and mapping were being carried out in Bhutan, Burundi, China, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Madagascar, Nepal, the Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and Viet Nam.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.